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Date: May 2, 2002

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Applicant: Takashi SHIKAMA et al. | Art Unit: 2832 |
| Serial No.: 09/401,080 | Examiner: T. Nguyen |
| Filed: September 22, 1999 | |
| Title: COMPOSITE INDUCTOR ELEMENT | |

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, submitted herewith are copies of two (2) references cited in the enclosed search report issued in a corresponding Japanese patent application. For the Examiner's convenience, we have enclosed an English translation of the Japanese search report and a completed Form PTO-1449. The statement is not a representation that all of the information cited is necessarily effective as prior art against the application.

I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign

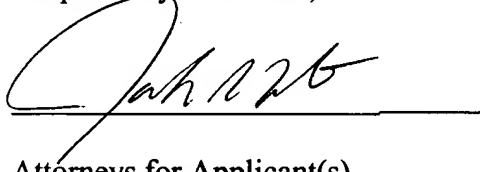
May 2, 2002

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application not more than 3 months prior to the filing of this statement, and that this is the first citation of these prior art references by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application. Accordingly, no fee is necessary for the filing of this statement. Should the Commissioner determine otherwise, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1353 for any fee shortages, including the petition fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

Applicant(s) respectfully request(s) that the disclosed reference(s) be made of record in the subject application.

Respectfully submitted,



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REJECTION ASSESSMENT

[Stamp: Received, 4/3/02, Morishita Patent Office]

Patent Application No.: Patent Application No. 274861 of Heisei 10 [1998]
Draft Date: March 22, 2002
Patent Office Examiner: Tomohiro Sakai 8935 5R00
Title of the Invention: Composite Inductor Element
Patent Applicant: Murata Manufacturing Co., Ltd.
Agent: Takekazu Morishita

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The present application should be rejected for the reason(s) described in the Notification of Reasons for Rejection dated November 29, 2001.

Furthermore, the contents of the Opinion Brief and Amendment were examined, but no grounds sufficient to overturn the reasons for rejection were found.

Remarks:

The construction described in Claim 2, i.e., making "the bifilar coil [formed by] winding parallel wires in a spiral shape" is a universally known construction as described, for example, in a microfilm of Japanese Utility Model Application No. S48-140517 (Japanese Utility Model Application Kokai No. S50-82652) and Japanese Patent Application Kokai No. H3-171702; accordingly, it is a construction that could be appropriately selected as necessary by a person skilled in the art.

This certifies that the above-described matter is the same as the item recorded in the file.

Date Certified: April 2, 2002

Yoshimasa [?] Tsukamoto, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry Administrator [Seal]

[Stamp: —, 4/8/02, Hayashi]